



## Annual Report for the Lutheran Campus Center 2022

January 2022 feels like a lifetime ago. When we began Spring Semester in 2022, we were asked by the university to meet online for the first two weeks, as everyone was returning from their travels over break. It was a tough start, but in February, a group of students met me early on a Sunday morning at Faith Lutheran Church in Winona, our first congregational visit since the beginning of the pandemic. They shared such beautiful stories of what the LCC has meant to them and their faith life, particularly during such a stressful, topsy-turvy time. Later that evening we met for Holden Evening Prayer at the LCC and enjoyed snacks and the first half of the Super Bowl together. I felt something shift in our community- a new energy- and away we went!

We welcomed a few new faces, bid farewell and Godspeed to others, returned to some of our past activities, and tried new things. Student leaders noticed that they and many of their friends had a hard time going to things, because they were *exhausted*. So, they suggested we host a “Homework & Dinner Night.” I prepared tacos for a small crew and ended up having to run to pick up pizzas when we ran out of food! We were blown away by the response, especially of students who had never been to the LCC before, that we held another such night just before finals.

One of the things I appreciate about campus ministry is that we provide a safe space for students to try things out, teaching that failure is part of learning and growth, and that no matter what, we are claimed beloved children of God. So, when “Homework & Dinner Night” didn’t see a great response this past fall, the students received it as feedback, pivoted, and tried something else. Their worth and the value of this ministry weren’t at stake, so we were free to try anew. We have also relished in the ability to return to some of our favorite activities since the pandemic, like Fall Retreat at Good Earth Village, led by student ministers, and the Family Weekend worship & lunch.

Before any of this, though— before we tried new things, and before we returned to past activities— I asked the students why we should continue to exist as a ministry. “Why do you want to pass it on?” I inquired. Their responses blew me away:

**“Because the LCC is a place where God’s *abundant* love is shown, not just talked about. And, it’s a place where faith is at your own pace.”**

Thank you, as always, for your incredible support of campus ministry. Thank you for holding our students and community in your prayers. May you remember your freedom in your identity as a beloved child of God, and may you be grounded in the promise of God’s abundant love, now and always.

*-Pastor Corrine Haulotte on behalf of the Lutheran Campus Center*